AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus for delivering an electronic document, the apparatus comprising ~~of~~:

A. a sending device, which functions to send an electronic document;

B. at least one receiving device, which functions to receive the electronic document directly from the sending device; and

C. a network between said sending device and said at least one receiving device, the network functioning to allow said sending device to send a notification to said receiving device, and wherein said receiving device sends a notification to said sending device whereby said sending device forwards the electronic document directly to said receiving device.

2. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein said sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said receiving device, and whereby said receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

3. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein the network functions to allow said sending device to send a notification to a plurality of receiving devices, wherein each receiving device sends a notification to said sending device, and whereby said sending device waits for a notification, and whereby said sending device forwards the electronic document to the plurality of receiving devices in a single multicast transmission, and whereby said sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and

received from said receiving device, and whereby said receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

4. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein said sending device waits for a time-out of collection of said notifications and forwards the electronic document to the plurality of said receiving devices in a single multicast transmission.

5. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1 wherein the network functions to allow said sending devices to send a notification to said receiving device in a single multicast transmission, wherein each receiving device downloads the electronic document from said sending device, and whereby the sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said receiving device, and each receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

6. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein the network functions to allow said sending device to send a document to said receiving device, wherein said receiving device sends a notification to said sending device, whereby said sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said receiving device, and said receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

7. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein the network functions to allow said receiving device to send a notification searching for said sending device, wherein said sending device replies with a notification of time when network capacity is substantially free to said receiving device, said receiving device then

requests at the notified time directly to said sending device, whereby said sending device will forward the electronic document to said receiving device, and whereby said sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said receiving device, and said receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

8. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein said receiving device is one of a community of receiving devices.

9. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein a single receiving device sends a notification searching for said sending device wherein the sending device replies with a notification of time when network capacity is free to said receiving device or the community of receiving devices, and said receiving device then requests at the notified time directly to said sending device, whereby the said sending device will forward the electronic document to the community of said receiving devices in a single multicast transmission, whereby said sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said receiving device, and said receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

10. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 1, wherein said receiving device is not a member of a sending devices community.

11. (Original) The apparatus for delivering an electronic document as described in claim 10, wherein said sending device sends a notification to said receiving device comprising a direct reference to become a member of a sending device community, wherein said receiving device executes the direct reference and becomes a member of said sending device community,

whereby said sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said receiving device, and said receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

12. (Currently amended) An apparatus for automatic management and allocation of network traffic based on requests to use network capacity, the apparatus comprising ~~of~~:

A. a sending device, which functions to send an electronic document;

B. a bandwidth database which functions to store reservations for sending the electronic document;

C. a channel manager, which comprises a plurality of algorithms which function to calculate a time to send the electronic document;

D. at least one receiving device, which functions to receive the electronic document directly from the sending device; and

E. a network between said sending device and receiving device ~~devices~~, wherein transactions to send document transfers are managed through ~~a~~ the channel manager and ~~a~~ the bandwidth database, wherein said sending device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said receiving device, and whereby said receiving device automatically records all notifications sent to and received from said sending device.

Claims 13-23 (Canceled).

24. (New) A system for delivering data files and documents directly to at least one recipient over one or more channels, the system comprising:

a file transfer component for sending data files and documents;

a channel manager coupled with the file transfer component, wherein the channel manager supervises the one or more channels; and

a bandwidth database coupled with the channel manager, wherein the bandwidth database monitors the use of bandwidth on the one or more channels.

25. (New) The system of claim 24, further comprising a timer component coupled with the file transfer component.

26. (New) A method comprising:

receiving a request from a file server for approval to send a file to a destination at a requested time;

determining an optimal time for transfer of the file at a recommended speed and with sufficient available bandwidth;

calculating a length of time required to send the file to the destination;

identifying the closest available time to the requested time for sending the file to the destination at the recommended speed and with sufficient available bandwidth; and

notifying the file server of the closest available time for sending the file to the destination.

27. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the request from the file server is triggered by a user-initiated event.

28. (New) The method of claim 26, wherein the request from the file server is received in response to a request from a client device to one or more file servers indicating the requested time for sending the file.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, further comprising:

ensuring that only one file server will respond to the request from the client device where the request is sent to more than one file server.

30. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the client device is the destination.

31. (New) One or more computer-readable media having computer-executable instructions stored thereon for performing the method of claim 26.